

## Continuing Our Commitment

Once again we are proud to present our consumer confidence report to you. This edition covers all testing completed from January through December 2004. We are pleased to tell you that we are in complete compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws. As in the past, we are committed to delivering the best quality drinking water, and so we remain vigilant in meeting the challenges of source water protection, water conservation, and community education while continuing to serve the needs of all of our water users.



For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call Don North, Water Plant Superintendent, at (770) 830-2021.

## Community Participation

The mayor and council meet on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Public Safety Complex, 115 West Center Street, Carrollton, GA. The Carrollton Water Quality Commission Board is interested in any questions, concerns, or comments that you may have, which may be anything from the level of service with meter reading, with billing, or with service crews to the quality of the water itself. The board can be contacted through our Web site at www.carrollton-ga.gov (click on water quality), or direct an e-mail message to waterconcerns@carrollton-ga.gov, or call and leave a voice mail at (770) 830-2000, ext. 233. You may also drop written questions, comments, and concerns using the downloadable form from the Web Page in the drive-through window at City Hall, or fax any correspondence directly to (770) 830-2026. Date, time and location of all Water Quality Commission Board meetings are posted on our Web site, www.carrollton-ga.gov.

#### Source Water Assessment

The categories of potential pollution sources found in the Source Water Assessment are confined animal feed lots, NPDES stormwater and mining, airports, hazardous waste facilities and mining, LAS permit holders and roads that cross over streams. A copy of the Source Water Assessment may be viewed on the city's Web site: www.carrollton-ga.gov, "water quality," "Click to view the Source Water Assessment."

# Where Does My Water Come From?

The City of Carrollton draws its water from the Little Tallapoosa River. We are also fortunate enough to have three reservoirs. The Little Tallapoosa River runs through one of these reservoirs, Lake Buckhorn. Sharpes' Creek Reservoir flows into the Little Tallapoosa River, and Lake Carroll flows into Curtis Creek, which then flows into the Little Tallapoosa River. Lake Carroll and Sharpes' Creek Reservoirs have restrictions on them to aid in protecting our water sources. A copy of these restrictions may be obtained from the Water Department at City Hall.

In 2004 the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association recognized the City of Carrollton Water System with several awards:

#### **OUTSTANDING OPERATION FOR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

GOLD AWARD (for being in complete compliance with all state and federal regulations)

TOP OPERATOR FOR DISTRICT 3, which will now be in the running for the Meritorious Service Award for the State of Georgia.

### Information on the Internet

The U.S. EPA Office of Water (www.epa.gov/watrhome) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) Web sites provide a substantial amount of information on many issues relating to water resources, water conservation and public health. Also, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has a Web site (www.dnr. state.ga.us/dnr/environ) that provides complete and current information on water issues in our state.

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Naturally Occurring Bacteria

The simple fact is, bacteria and other microorganisms inhabit our world. They can be found all around us: in our food; on our skin; in our bodies; and, in the air, soil and water. Some are harmful to us and some are not. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are generally not harmful themselves. The presence of this bacterial form in drinking water is a concern because it indicates that the water may be contaminated with other organisms that can cause disease. Throughout the year, we tested more than 300 samples for coliform bacteria. In that time, none of the samples came back positive for the bacteria. Federal regulations now require that public water testing positive for coliform bacteria must be further analyzed for fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform are present only in human and animal waste. Because these bacteria can cause illness, it is unacceptable for fecal coliform to be present in water at any concentration. Our tests indicate no fecal coliform is present in our water.

# Sampling Results

As part of our continued commitment to you, our customer, we have conducted more than 40,000 laboratory tests for more than 100 drinking water parameters in order to aid us in bringing a better product to your tap. The table shows only those contaminants that were detected in the water and although all of the substances listed here are under the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), we feel that it is important that you know exactly what was detected and how much of the substance was present in the water.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES								
SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL (MRDL)	MCLG (MRDLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE	
Chlorine (ppm)	2004	(4)	(4)	1.15	0.39-1.59	No	Water additive used to control microbes	
Dichloromethane (ppb)	2004	5	0	0.79	0.55-0.79	No	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories	
Fluoride (ppm)	2004	4	4	0.93	0.49-1.47	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)	2004	60	NA	34	20-52	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Nitrate+Nitrite (ppm)	2004	10	10	0.34	0.2-0.5	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits	
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	2004	ТТ	NA	1.75	1.2-2.3	No	Naturally present in the environment	
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	2004	80	NA	42	17-86	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection	
Turbidity <sup>1</sup> (NTU)	2004	TT	NA	0.41	0.04-0.41	No	Soil runoff	
<b>Turbidity</b> (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)	2004	ТТ	NA	99.9%	NA	No	Soil runoff	

Tai	n water sam	nles were	collected for I	lead and copp	er analyses fro	om 30 homes	throughout the service area
	, mater cam	0.00	001100104 101 1	loud alla oop	or amaryous m	0111 00 11011100	amoughout the corride area

SUBSTANCE (UNITS)	YEAR SAMPLED	ACTION LEVEL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90th%TILE)	HOMES ABOVE ACTION LEVEL	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2004	1.3	1.3	0.11	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2004	15	0	3.8	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

## **Table Definitions**

**AL** (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or

expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

NA: Not applicable

**NTU** (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water.

**ppb** (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**TT** (**Treatment Technique**): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## Substances That Might Be in Drinking Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material; and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

**Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

**Pesticides and Herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems;

**Radioactive Contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

# Monitoring for Turbidity

Due to an equipment malfunction on August 19th and 20th, turbidity measurements were not recorded as required by Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). We notified EPD of the equipment failure immediately upon discovery of the problem. Turbidity has no adverse health effects; however, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. We have equipment in place that records turbidity every 15 minutes and when the malfunction was discovered, the equipment was repaired and has since been functioning properly as required by state and federal law. We do not believe that this incident had any impact on public health and safety. As a result of the equipment failure, we now verify that the equipment is recording properly a minimum of 3 times per 12 hour shift. (NOTE: Turbidity never exceeded 0.07 NTU during the period of equipment malfunction)

## Contamination from Cross-Connections

Cross-connections that could contaminate drinking water distribution lines are a major concern. A cross-connection is formed at any point where a drinking water line connects to equipment (boilers), systems containing chemicals (air conditioning systems, fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems) or water sources of questionable quality. Cross-connection contamination can occur when the pressure in the equipment or system is greater than the pressure inside the drinking water line (backpressure). Contamination can also occur when the pressure in the drinking water line drops due to fairly routine occurrences (main breaks, heavy water demand) causing contaminants to be sucked out from the equipment and into the drinking water line (backsiphonage).

Outside water taps and garden hoses tend to be the most common sources of cross-connection contamination at home. The garden hose creates a hazard when submerged in a swimming pool or when attached to a chemical sprayer for weed killing. Garden hoses that are left lying on the ground may be contaminated by fertilizers, cesspools or garden chemicals. Improperly installed valves in your toilet could also be a source of cross-connection contamination.

Community water supplies are continuously jeopardized by cross-connections unless appropriate valves, known as backflow prevention devices, are installed and maintained. We are surveying all industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities in the service area to make sure that all potential cross-connections are identified and eliminated or protected by a backflow preventer. We also require the testing of each backflow preventer annually to make sure that it is providing maximum protection.

For more information, visit the Web site of the American Backflow Prevention Association for a discussion on current issues (www.abpa.org).

# Lead in Drinking Water

Lead is a naturally occurring element in our environment. Consequently, our water supply is expected to contain small, undetectable amounts of lead. However, most of the lead in household water usually comes from the plumbing in your own home, not from the local water supply. The U.S. EPA estimates that more than 40 million U.S. residents use water that can contain lead in excess of EPA's Action Level of 15 ppb.

Lead in drinking water is a concern because young children, infants and fetuses appear to be particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning. A dose that would have little effect on an adult can have a big effect on a small body. On average, it is estimated

that lead in drinking water contributes between 10 and 20 percent of total lead exposure in young children.

All kinds of water, however, may have high levels of lead. We maintain our drinking water supply at an optimum pH and mineral content level to help prevent corrosion in your home's pipes. To reduce lead levels in your drinking water you should flush your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes as cold as it will get (anywhere from 5 seconds to 2 minutes or longer) and use only water from the cold-water tap for drinking, cooking, and especially for making baby formula. Hot water is likely to contain higher levels of lead.

For more information, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

## Water Conservation Tips

Water conservation measures are an important first step in protecting our water supply. Such measures not only save the supply of our source water, but also can save you money by reducing your water bill. Here are a few suggestions:

# Conservation measures you can use inside your home include:

- Fix leaking faucets, pipes, toilets, etc.
- Replace old fixtures; install water-saving devices in faucets, toilets and appliances.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Do not use the toilet for trash disposal.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Soak dishes before washing.
- Run the dishwasher only when full.

#### You can conserve outdoors as well

- Water the lawn and garden in the early morning or evening.
- Use mulch around plants and shrubs.
- Repair leaks in faucets and hoses.
- Use water-saving nozzles.
- Use water from a bucket to wash your car, and save the hose for rinsing.

The State of Georgia has implemented statewide restrictions on an even/odd system, with no watering on Fridays.

Information on other ways that you can help conserve water can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html.